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# CDC Health Update

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
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## **Instructions for monitoring health of laboratory workers and for destroying influenza A (H2N2) samples**

### **Background**

On April 13, 2005, CDC issued a [Health Advisory](#) describing the inadvertent distribution of influenza A (H2N2) samples to domestic and international laboratories and recommending that those samples be destroyed immediately. This update provides instructions for 1) monitoring for and reporting influenza-like illness among laboratory workers who might have been exposed to the A (H2N2) samples and 2) destroying influenza A (H2N2) samples by use of autoclaves, incineration, or chemical decontamination.

### **Monitoring and reporting influenza-like illness among laboratory staff**

Testing of laboratory personnel who may have worked with the influenza A (H2N2) panels is not recommended in the United States at this time. The biosafety level 2 (BSL-2) precautions required for this agent would be expected to protect workers from exposure and infection, and therefore the risk of transmission is considered low.

However, CDC is recommending that laboratories with workers with relatively recent exposure (within the last 10 days) to the H2N2 test samples monitor their worker's health for influenza-like-illness (i.e., temperature of greater than or equal to 100 degrees F and cough or sore throat). If a laboratory worker with recent exposure to the H2N2 samples develops such symptoms, clinical specimens should be obtained and tested for influenza A. Commercially available rapid test kits for influenza and other methods for rapid detection of influenza virus, such as indirect fluorescent antibody assay, direct fluorescent antibody assay, and polymerase chain reaction should be used.

If the sample is positive for influenza A virus, contact your state health department and CDC immediately at (770)-488-7100 (**see case and possible case reporting requirements below**).

### **Instructions for destroying influenza A (H2N2) samples**

Laboratories have been advised to immediately destroy and treat as potentially infectious and hazardous all materials retained or derived from the influenza A (H2N2) proficiency testing panels created by Meridian Bioscience and sent out by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the American Association of Bioanalysts, the American College of Family Physicians, or the American College of Physician Services.

These materials may be destroyed by **autoclave, incineration, or chemical disinfection**

#### **To autoclave:**

- Autoclave with moist heat at 121 degrees C (15-19 pounds of pressure) for at least 20 minutes **or**
- Autoclave with dry heat at 170 degrees C for 1 hour or 160 degrees C for 2 hours or 121 degrees C for at least 16 hours.

**To chemically disinfect:**

Any of the following liquid disinfectants can also be used to destroy the virus; however, with the exception of the alcohols, these should not be used with autoclaving due to the chemical fumes that would result. The length of exposure time required to kill the virus depends on the disinfectant used, but overnight exposure would be adequate for all of them.

- 200 ppm fresh sodium hypochlorite (a freshly made 1:10 dilution of household bleach should provide this level of free chlorine)
- 60%-95% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol
- 5% phenol
- 3% lysol

Other agents that may be used but that have toxic or irritant properties include

- 5-8% formalin
- 2% alkaline glutaraldehyde

**Other Instructions**

If the autoclave/incinerator is offsite, the material should be sealed in an impervious bag while being transported. If the bag will be shipped, it must conform with all [International Air Transport Association](#) and [Department of Transportation](#) requirements regarding packaging and labeling of infectious substances (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/srp/specimens/DOT%20Final%20Rule%208-14-02.pdf>).

CDC and HHS remain in close communication with the World Health Organization, as well as the College of American Pathologists and other providers of proficiency testing panels, about the identification and destruction of the H2N2 panels of concern and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

**DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements**

Reporting of cases or possible cases of influenza associated with exposure to H2N2 test samples is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at: [http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable\\_conditions.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf)

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

## District Public Health Offices

*Mail or call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.*

### **Appalachia I (Anderson, Oconee)**

220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 231-1966  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-298-4442

### **Appalachia II (Greenville, Pickens)**

PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or  
1-800-993-1186

### **Appalachia III (Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)**

PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

### **Catawba (Chester, Lancaster, York)**

PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29721  
Phone: (803) 283-3175  
Fax: (803) 283-0572  
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-867-3886 or  
1-(888)-739-0748

### **Edisto Savannah (Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 642-1619  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

### **Edisto Savannah (Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)**

PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 536-9118  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

### **Low Country (Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)**

1407 King Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
Phone: (843) 525-7603  
Fax: (843) 525-7621  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

### **Palmetto (Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)**

2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

### **Pee Dee (Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

### **Trident (Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)**

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 746-3832  
Fax: (843) 746-3851  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

### **Upper Savannah (Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)**

PO Box 3227  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

### **Waccamaw (Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)**

2830 Oak Street  
Conway, SC 29526-4560  
Phone: (843) 365-3126  
Fax: (843) 365-3153  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

### **Wateree (Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)**

PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 773-6366  
Nights / Weekends: 1-(877)-831-4647

### **Bureau of Disease Control**

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division  
1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

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#### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.